



KODIAK AREA SUBSISTENCE FISHERY NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 2008

The Buskin Lake sockeye salmon run appears to be weak. Approximately, 1,020 sockeye salmon have migrated upstream past the Buskin River weir counting station, while the desired escapement for this date should range from 4,203 to 6,830. It is not expected that the Buskin Lake lower escapement goal for sockeye salmon (8,000) will be achieved. There will be no commercial salmon fishing in this area (the Buskin River Section remains closed).

In an effort to conserve Buskin Lake sockeye salmon, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board will close a portion of the Buskin River Section to subsistence fishing for salmon.

Effective at 12:01 a.m. Thursday June 19, 2008, the following area will close to the subsistence harvest of salmon, until 12:01 a.m. Friday August 1, 2008:

Buskin River: all waters of Chiniak Bay west of a line from Cliff Point (57° 43.51' N. lat., 152° 26.60' W. long.) to the southern most tip of Near Island (57° 46.32' N. lat., 152° 25.00' W. long.) and south of a line from the southern most tip of Near Island (57° 46.32' N. lat., 152° 25.00' W. long.) to a point near Gibson Cove (57° 46.62' N. lat., 152° 26.80' W. long.).

Sockeye salmon escapement into the Buskin Lake system will continue to be monitored daily. Subsistence salmon fishing opportunities may be adjusted based on changes in the run strength. If the Buskin Lake sockeye salmon run improves, this subsistence fishing restriction could be lifted to

provide additional opportunity.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, under the direction of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, manages sport, commercial, personal use, and state subsistence harvest on all lands and waters throughout Alaska. However, the Federal Subsistence Board assures a subsistence priority for rural residents as provided by Title VIII of ANILCA.

Fishermen are reminded that they should consult both State of Alaska fishing regulations and the Federal Subsistence Management regulations for waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII before fishing.

This news release and fishery restriction has been a coordinated action of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

